SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

MATRIMONIAL DESIGNS.

From the Cincinnati Times. Not even the delicate skill with which Shelley, "sweet-voiced bird of song," built up his sensuous fabric of "affinity" could render it acceptable to civilized humanity; and though the world has moved, they are still less likely to take up with the coarser dish that the free-lovers of to-day would set before them. Still, coupled with that pecuniary independence which Anthony believes to be the basis of feminine virtue, the thing has a certain merit, in that it would eliminate from our social system a great and growing evil-one that is becoming a barrier to pleasurable relations between the sexes, driving the one to the hot house development of solitude and Ouids, and the other to beerhouse and club.

Until a young man reaches the advanced age of sixteen, we believe it is still permitted him to wander among feminine pastures, inhaling fragrance and beauty, without dauger of being asked his "intentions." But when once that mystic period is passed, he very quickly discovers that he is either game or not game-in the first case to be trapped; in the other, expelled from the presence. And in this we mean no censure upon the feminine persuasion. So long as the chief end of woman's existence is to be comfortably married to a sufficient income, so long must every action tend to its consummation, and every hindrance be repugnant.

However inevitable a consequence, it is none the less disagreeable to that large class of mankind who are either unwilling or unable to marry, but who are yet civilized enough to admire feminine society, and to be surfeited with a constant diet of street and bar. Rash the mortal who heroically resolves to war against custom. He enters the modern drawing-room, and, if ineligible, is withered by the excruciating coolness of mamma; if a good parti, he is immediately suspected of matrimonial intentions, and his actions gauged with the nicety of a graduated scale. We knew a man in the far West who had acquired a continental fame for his success at poker. His system was simple: a pair of kings was worth so much; two pairs, so much more; and so on to a complement of aces; and from this valuation he never varied. So with the system of an American matron-a smile, "he admires;" a dance, "he esteems;" and so on by rule, till some tender indiscretion results in a big brother's demanding a "sight," and you lay down the cards with the sorrowful knowledge that though you have lost the game you must take the stakes.

This thing in America is all the more unacceptable from its incongruity. In England, and still more in Germany, where marriageable girls are constantly chaperoned, it is to be expected; and we marvel not at the American student at Heidelberg whose fraulein asked him at the second call when he was going to "see father." But our young women are bred to take care of themselves, and may be left to themselves in the matter of permitting attention that is not "serious."

At all events, we demand a reciprocity treaty that shall establish how far we may go and how far not. The thing is getting dengerous, and if two dances and a tender look, or one sigh and a backward glance, necessitate a marriage or a lawsuit, we want to know it. Can there not be some arrangement-say by the wearing of a label, "No Matrimonial Designs"-by which we may be permitted a little respectful attention, a little of the light from laughing eyes and winsome lips, a little of that softer, gentler fellowship which smoothes the angles of the world, and that without the disagreeable necessity of taking anybody for better or for worse till death do us part?

WILL THE TREATY BE RATIFIED? From the N. Y. Times.

So far as present appearances are an evidence, there are but two important sources of opposition to the recent Washington treaty: the extreme Canadian party, and a small party in Great Britain, apparently led by the old Whigs. The opposition in this country is apparently very slight. Mr. Sum-ner objects to certain defects in the treaty, but is understood to accept it as a whole. Various small Democratic politicians will attack it, because it is to be ratified under a Republican administration. Another rabid faction will oppose it, because they want no union or agreement with England, of any sort whatever. These, however, are all unimportant forces in opposition. The solid good sense of the country, the Christian feeling of the best men in all parties, and the sentiment of the great majority of the Republican party, will support and approve it. They approve it, because in itself it is an advance in the method of settling quarrels between nations; because arbitration is in fact the application of right reason and Chistianity to the differences between opposing peoples; and if the world is ever to progress beyond the heathen mode of arbitraments, by battle, it must do so by some such method. Moreover, the treaty is singularly favorable to American interests and regardful of American feelings.

The expression of regret is all that could be expected from the Government of a great nation, who now feel that they were in the wrong. More important still is the recognition of those principles or rules in international law which the United States have maintained since their independence, and which Great Britain has always opposed. The administration of Great Britain now admits that these wise rules in regard to neutrality and its observance are the sound and practical ones, and they are willing to affirm that benceforth they shall be international law, though not admitting that they were so when the cases of grievance arose. The damages from the Rebel cruisers are to be determined in the wisest manner, and on the very principles which we approve. The only doubtful features of the treaty to a portion of our people are those relating to the fisheries. But as both parties object to these stipulations, there will seem to impartial ob-servers a probability that they are fair and reasonable.

At the worst, if the Provinces refuse to ratify this portion of the treaty, is will not prevent the more important articles from being approved and ratified by both govern-ments, and becoming the foundation of a long era of amity and good feeling between the two countries. It is devoutly to be hoped that "His Imperial Majesty" of Germany will manage to understand the points in regard to San Juan, and the division of the channel, better than most Americans and English do, who, as a general thing, are ignorant even where it is. When his decision is made the last of the unsolved questions between the two governments will be answered, and nothing will remain but the ques-

tions about "bait" and "fishing rights," and [the legal distance for piscatory privileges on the coast of British America, which can certainly be arranged without serious difficulty.

The opposition to the treaty in England will not count for much. It has been called a "Tory" opposition, though without very obvious reason, seeing that the Tories have thus far taken no important part in the affair. The last Tory Minister tried hard to settle the dispute, and Mr. Disraeli is certainly in favor of doing so as speedily as possible. Earl Russell is the leader of the opposition, and nobody can call him a Tory. He may advocate the harsh principles of international law which prevailed in the last century; but the solid sense of the British people will recognize that "the rules" laid down by the treaty are just and reasonable, and ought to be law if they have not been. They know well that Earl Russell's course during our civil war was not a model which they would desire other nations to imitate, if they themselves should be involved in war. They see that it is to the advantage of Great Britain to have the Alabama claims settled, and no such open questions, full of bitterness and danger, left for the future. Many will begin to appreciate, in the threatening aspect of the continent, how immensely important it is for England to have a friend and an ally in the stormy years to come. Despite the opposition of the old Whigs, therefore, we look to see the treaty ratified by the British Parliament, as we have no doubt it will be by the Senate. The Marquis of Salisbury, a Tory, seems half inclined to join Earl Russell in unfavorable criticism, but his influence was never very great with his own party, and it is now rather smaller than ever.

MORE RAILROAD CONSOLIDATION.

From the N. Y. World. The New Jersey Central Railroad Company is believed to have fallen under the ban of the displeasure of the Pennsylvania Railroad magnates by combining with the Lehigh and Susquehanna Railroad to break the dead-lock of coal transportation, and bring the Wilkesbarre Coal and Iron Company's coal to market, thereby compelling the Schuylkill and Scrauton companies to resume before they had fully starved the miners' association into submission. It is reported that the Lehigh and Susquehanna and the Jersey Central companies are both to receive the punishment which their wicked conduct merits-the former by being deprived of its outlet to this city, the latter by being absorbed into the Reading Railroad. Wall street has it that the Jersey road has been leased by the Lehigh Valley road, under a guarantee from the Reading Company; and, if true, the next step will, of course, be that the Lehigh and Susquehanna Company will build an independent line to New York, making one more competitor for a business which even now is insufficient for those engaged in it.

New York city is, of course, largely interested in all these railroad combinations, since they all originate in a struggle for the honor of supplying us with coal. But a large part of New York has a most particular interest in this last-reported scheme. For several years past the New Jersey Central has been the one local road leading out of New York city that New Yorkers could point to with pride as a model road, conducted upon the principle that the safety, convenience, and comfort of its passengers were the best guarantee of its own financial success. Under admirable management it has built up village after village along its line, until from the Jersey shore-line up to Somerville extends one vast and beantiful suburb of our over-crowded city. It will be a sorrowful day for the resideats of Elizabeth, Plainfield, Scotch Plains, and other lovely Jersey villages when the Central road passes under the control of the Reading or Lehigh Valley companies. It will be worse than when the Morris and Essex became a mere tributary to the coal traffic of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western, for the Morris and Essex management never was good. Yet the change drove many people away from Orange and Morristown. What will be the fate of Elizabeth and Plainfield when Colonel Gowen, President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, dictates its time-table?

The report is that the lease will guarantee 7 per cent, per annum on a capital stock watered to the extent of 334 per cent., which makes a very good thing to the owners of the Jersey Central stock, especially if they have great confidence in the solvency of that worst watered of all watered concerns, the Reading Railroad. But it can scarcely be satisfactory to the public which uses the New Jersey Central as a highway. For, since the object of the lease is to drive the Lehigh and Susquehanna traffic off the road, and thereby largely diminish its income from that source, the general public will in some way be taxed to make up the deficiency; and since the earnings of the roads must not only be prevented from declining, but must be largely increased so as to pay the additional dividend on the water put into the stock, the prospect is that the residents along the road will have to undergo a system of extortion and oppression of which their friends on the Morris and Essex road can give them an excellent illustration. This whole business of railroad consolidation is based upon the monopolist idea of extorting from the public whatever it can be made to pay, by depriving it of all the protection which competition ordinarily affords. The public endurance has already nearly reached its limit, but the appetite of the consolidators appears to be on the increase. What next?

SHALL WE SAIL OR DRIFT INTO THE

FIGHT? From the N. Y. Tribune. We believe the next Presidential campaign will be the hottest within the memory of this generation. At the last, with the enormous odds of a popular soldier as our candidate in the first election after the war he had triumphantly closed, our contest was so close that the change of a few thousand votes in three States in the October elections would have turned the scale against us. Such as the victory was, our opponents may claim that they won it for us themselves. The Democrats elected the Republican ticket, in Tammany Hall, in July, 1868. If Mr. Clement L. Vallandigham did not perform the work when he forced Horatio Seymour upon the astounded New York delegation, General Wade Hampton fairly finished it when he secured a place on the ticket for the author of the Broadhead letter. Mr. Vallaudigham's late resolutions, and their indorsement by the Democracy of the leading city in his State. are a notice that they don't intend to repeat the performance. From another quarter John Quincy Adams takes up the word with his treble note and swells the new Democratic cry for "the Constitution as it is."

For that, if the incongruous elements of the new movement can have their way, is to be the watchword of the Democracy in 1872. What Mr. Vallandigham means now is what Alexander Long meant and the World shamefacedly struggled for in 1868—to put the war and all its fatal memories behind him, to ac-

cept its results, to bow to the fourteenth and | fifteenth amendments to the Constitution, not as articles originally to his liking, but as integral parts now of the fundamental law of the land, and therefore entitled to his unquestioning support. Mr. Vallandigham does not intende again to insure in advance the adverse decision of the people who put down the Rebellion and hold in perpetual detestation its allies and supporters. He will avoid arousing alarm for the safety of what we fought for; will go as far as the Grand Army of the Republic or Mr. Wendell Phillips in maintaining the right of the late slave to his ballot, and affirming the perpetuity of the indivisible Republic.

It is not, indeed, clear that the Democracy can be brought to this patriotic platform, or that if it is the people will care to accept its too late repentant authors in any other way than on probation. The Cincinnati Enquirer, the great organ of Mr. Vallandigham's own State, regards him askance, and the St. Louis Republican, the organ of the farther West, openly flouts him. Give the Democracy a few local triumphs between now and their nominating convention, and they may lose their heads as completely as they did after the Oregon election in 1868, and fall into the hands of the Reactionists once more as completely as they did three years ago in Tammany Hall. On the very heels of the Taxpayers' Convention the other day, at Columbia, came the Ku-klux outburst and attempted murder at Newberry. All the fine efforts of Vallandigham and Adams may lead to an exactly similar end.

But we cannot count on it; and we tell our Republican friends, wrangling over the publication of a treaty at Washington, or dividing the spoils of office in New York, or frittering away their influence elsewhere in needless contests and relentless personal feuds, that the new movement means danger. To repeat our warning:-The next Presidential campaign is to be the hottest of a generation. Rancorous wrangles and inexcusable tyranny in the Senate; a crusade against the press of the whole country, aroused with absolute unanimity in defense of what it thinks its right; persecution of prominent Republicans because they favor this man for Senator, or do not favor that man for the succession to the Presidency; warfare upon the Republican administration in the hope of killing off a Republican caudidate; interference in local politics in the hope of building up one-are alike unwise means of preparing for the contest. Whose taketh the sword shall perish by the sword. The men who begin and force upon their associates such struggles may not succeed in digging the grave of the Republican party, but they will not fail to dig their own.

BIGOTED BUSYBODIES.

From the N. Y. World. In what respects the Presbyterians of America need reforming we know not, nor yet by what commission from earth or heaven a body calling itself the "Presbyterian Reformed Synod," now in session at Philadelphia, assumes to reform the Presbyterians aforesaid. But this we know, that until the "Presbyterian Reformed Synod" shall have succeeded in reforming itself in the three trifling particulars of Christian charity, common sense, and ordinary historical knowledge, it will do well to leave Presbyterians in general to the care of Providence.

For this synod has just seen fit to favor the public, most unprovokedly, with its views upon the present state of affairs, not in the Presbyterian Church nor yet in America, but in Paris and in France. And the sum of these "views" briefly is that "the present condition of France in general as desolate t by storms of war, and of the city of Paris in particular as now drenched by the blood of her own citizens, is a righteons retribution for the martyrdoms of Saint Bartholomew's day, and the tangible fulfilment to the Church of the divine promise 'that no weapon that is formed against thee shall

This conclusion the synod reaches on the very day when the news comes to us that the Commune of Paris has been defeated by the troops of Versailles. Now, the Commune of Peris has certainly "formed a wespon against the Church," and that weapon certainly has not prospered; so that in this respect the Scripture cited by the synod may be held to have been "tangibly fulfilled." But the Church against which the Commune formed its weapon was by no means the Presbyterian Church, reformed or unreformed. It was the Catholic Roman Church. The pastors of that Church have been cast into prison and threatened with death, among them men like the venerable Deguerry, cure of the Madeleine, of whom all decently educated Presbyterians ought to remember that twenty years ago and more, on the 24th of August, 1849, he publicly embraced the famous Reformed clergyman of Paris, M. Athanase Coquerel, on the platform of the Congres de la Paix, as a sign and token that the cruel memories of the St. Bartholomew were and ought to be forever put aside from among Christian men. The Archbishop of the Roman Church in Paris has been plundered and abused by the Commune. Its religious edifices have been sacked and desecrated. If the Scripture of the synod has been fulfilled in behalf of any Church, then it is claerly in behalf of the Catholic Roman Church.

But this hardly tallies with the synod's notions of a "righteous retribution" for the martyrdoms of the St. Bartholomew, which are commonly understood to have been perpetrated, not by enemies of the Catholic Church, but by persons who claimed to be acting in its behalf, and covered with the cloak of the faith their own personal hatreds and political plottings. From the point of view of the synod the weapon formed by the Commune was a very sword of the Lord and of Gideon; and if it were possible for such people to be logical, they ought to pass a resolution of censure upon Providence for failing to make this weapon prosper, even to the hanging of Archbishop Darboy. If the synod, in a large, loose, radical way, means only to lump all Parisians of the nineteenth century together in expiation of the crimes of an Italian Queen of France who happened to inhabit Paris in the sixteenth century, it still must be admitted to be hard measure for the Commune that the earnest desire of its leaders to murder an archbishop should not exonerate them in the eyes of the "Presbyterian Reformed Synod" from being tarred with the archiepis-

copal staff. If the world were governed as the Presbyterian Reformed Synod would have it be, the chastisement of modern Paris by an atheistic Commune in 1871 in atonement for the massacre of the Huguenots in 1572 ought to be followed up by a Chartist insurrection in London and the execution of Mr. Gladstone to stone for the massacre of Glencoe in Scotland and for the protracted martyrdom endured by Catholic Ireland at the hands of Elizabeth and of Cromwell. Between the horrors of the St. Bartholomew and the abominations of the present civil war in Paris one would say, looking at matters from a purely human and humane point of view,

that blood enough has been shed in the French capital in one wayand another to gatisfy the most exacting of misanthropic accountants with a God of retaliations. Even if the Presbyterian Reformed Synod has direct apocalyptic authority for regarding the offense of hating God as identical with the misfor-tune of being hated by it, it should be re-membered that the Catholic Roman Church, which labors under that misfortune, has passed through the Red Sea of the revolution of 1792. If the age of faith had its awful rubric of August, the age of reason had its rubric not less awful of Sentember. One would say that the Presbyterian Reformed Synod will only forgive Providence for scoring the one on condition that Providence will agree indefinitely to repeat the other.

It is not pleasant to be forced to speak so harsbly of any convocation of men which even professes to be organized in the name of religion. But when such a convocation deviates into secular questions in search of notoriety, and assumes to drag Divine Providence into the service of sectarian spite and stupidity, its practices dispense us from even pretending to respect its professions, and its members merit that they be promptly bidden hold their peace for a parcel of bigoted busy-

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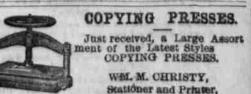
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